

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

MALCOLM H. MERRILL, M.D., M.P.H.

Director, California State Department of Public Health

THE INCIDENCE of paralytic poliomyelitis is continuing to remain well below that of previous years, with only 64 cases reported since April 1 and through August 23, compared with 105 and 606 paralytic cases reported during the corresponding periods of 1957 and 1956.

The age distribution of paralytic cases is remaining essentially the same as last year, with the largest proportion of cases—about one-third—in children under five years of age. Most of these preschool children had not been vaccinated. One-fourth of the paralytic cases were in adults over the age of 20, most of them in unvaccinated persons.

The medical profession will have an opportunity, October 1 to 3, to take positive action in the drafting of recommendations for the reduction of traffic accident injuries.

All physicians in California are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Governor's Traffic Safety Conference in Sacramento during that period. This marks the second year of the formation of the Medical Division of the Conference, which this year is under the chairmanship of G. Hunter Shelden, M.D., of Pasadena.

The medical section provides an excellent forum for physicians to present their views and suggestions for the reduction of accident injuries, and to present recommendations to the Governor which ultimately may influence legislative action in this field.

The conference this year will confine its deliberations to three principal areas:

1. Medical standards for the issuance of drivers' licenses.
2. Determination of what causes automobile injuries and what structural changes in cars would mitigate these injuries.
3. The availability and quality of ambulance emergency care, including the training of ambulance crews in first aid.

Fourteen medical students from 11 universities are attending the summer training program of the

State Department of Public Health, working in programs of particular interest to them.

The students have been assigned to a variety of special studies and projects carried on with the department in order to give them research experience and an intimate association with the activities of the agency.

The students are working in the Bureaus of Chronic Disease, Maternal and Child Health, Adult Health and Acute Communicable Diseases, and in such programs as alcoholic rehabilitation, air pollution control, industrial health and radiation, child health supervision, heart disease and neurotropic virus diseases.

They represent medical schools at Stanford, California, George Washington, Howard, Harvard, Western Reserve, Pennsylvania, Cornell, Kansas, Columbia and State University of New York.

The Blindness Prevention Project reports that some 3,600 preschool youngsters in Van Nuys, in Berkeley and in Orange County have had their vision tested in local programs. Of that number almost 500 have been referred for complete examination by an eye specialist, and of those examined thus far, some 70 were reported to have ocular conditions needing attention.

In seven recent surveys 8,000 persons were tested for glaucoma, and some 1,000 of them were referred for complete examination, resulting in the establishment of diagnosis of the disease in 155 new cases.

The Department of Health is working on the preparation of regulations governing the licensing and operation of human tissue banks. The regulations, if adopted, would pave the way for the establishment of living tissue banks. It is believed this step will eventually make the banking of tissues as commonplace as the banking of blood.

State and federal matching funds totaling \$16,354,802 were allocated for the construction of 33 hospitals, health centers and nursing home projects

at an August 11 and 12 meeting in San Francisco of the State Health Department's Advisory Hospital Council.

This is the tenth year that state-federal funds have been allocated to California projects under the Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Act. In that time more than \$85,000,000 has been allocated.

Listed below are the allocations by category and the total amount of state-federal funds, which represent two-thirds of project cost. The remaining one-third is provided by the applicant.

General Hospitals: Community Health Association, Hoopa, \$100,000; Fallbrook Hospital District, Oceanside, \$257,618; Tri-City Hospital District, Oceanside, \$1,241,386; Lassen County Hospital, Susanville, \$334,160; Grossmont Hospital District, La Mesa, \$1,334,502; San Miguel Hospital Association, La Mesa, \$990,760; Antelope Valley Hospital District, Lancaster, \$1,891,324; Marin General Hospital, San Rafael, \$1,436,830; Livermore Valley Community Hospital, \$587,288; St. Rose Hospital, Hayward, \$1,462,874, and equipment for Washington Township Hospital, Niles, \$150,666.

Psychiatric Hospitals: Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara, \$280,480; Sutter Memorial Hospital, Sacramento, \$436,156; Memorial Hospital, Long

Beach, \$172,800; Riverside County, Riverside, \$408,318; Community Hospital, Fresno, \$152,700, and St. Mary's, San Francisco, \$645,054.

Health Centers: Imperial County, \$171,344; Sutter-Yuba counties, \$141,832; Los Angeles City, Valley District, \$277,400; Los Angeles County, Whittier District, \$378,556; Riverside County, \$415,276; Yolo County, \$115,408, and Merced County, \$140,478.

Chronic Hospitals: Rancho Los Amigos, Whittier, \$536,860.

Nursing Homes: Humboldt County, Eureka, \$495,984; Shasta County, Redding, \$340,100, and St. John's Hospital, Oxnard, \$42,852.

Diagnostic and Treatment Centers: Mercy Hospital, San Diego, \$356,478, and San Joaquin County, Stockton, \$180,382.

Rehabilitation Centers: Casa Colina, Claremont, \$312,816, and Crystal Springs, San Mateo County, \$566,120.

‘ ‘ ‘
Physicians desiring further details concerning any of the items in this communication may direct inquiries to the California State Department of Public Health, 2151 Berkeley Way, Berkeley 4.

